Report of the Director

Middlebury Spanish School

1954

I am herewith submitting a report on the salient points of the 1954 session of the Spanish School. The total enrollment of the School was 135 students. This indicates a decrease of 15 students from last year's registration. This figure is larger than the study of Spanish in the rest of the country might lead one to expect. It is true that the position of Spanish in comparison with other languages is not a favorable one due to the competition of numerous summer schools as well as the possibility of study not only in Spain but also in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries. It would be desirable for the publicity of the School not to call attention to this decrease but rather to emphasize the high level of teaching at the Spanish School. It would also be wise to point up the success of the group of students who go to Spain to study for the M.A. and the D.M.L. The formation of that group, now in its fourth year, seems to me one of the most fruitful ideas that Middlebury College has presented in recent years. The teaching of Spanish to young children, at least this year, has awakened an enormous interest and has been very successful, due without doubt to the capabilities of Mrs. MacRae. Perhaps it would be good to continue this experiment long enough to prove its value.

The organization of the Faculty has been in the hands of Professor Del Río and it is his work and that of Dean Guarnaccia which have made possible the orderly functioning of the School. As in previous years, this summer has been an excellent one, from both an academic and a social standpoint and once more Dean and Mrs. Guarnaccia have received the Faculty most graciously.

In spite of the loss of Weybridge Theater, the activities of the School have been carried out without great inconvenience, but we look forward to having the use of the new theater in the not too distant future.

The School was very happy to take part in the International Amity Field Day and to judge by the letter we received thanking us for our contribution, it would appear that our offering was most successful.

The New Jersey Chapter of the AATSP has presented to the School a medal of the Association. The faculty unanimously voted to award it to Mr. Gaston Stegen.

I see only two problems which require a bit of consideration. 1) Just as the various Summer Schools attract a number of students who might otherwise come to Middlebury, so they are in

need of professors for their faculties and a good place to find them is at Middlebury. It is necessary to raise the salaries of the faculty if we hope to keep them here on our staff. 2) Retaining a good faculty becomes even more important because of the need of providing a continuity in the direction and supervision of the Doctoral studies. Thanks to the excellent idea of sending a group of students to Spain for the D.M.L. the number of theses has increased considerably. Previously we had one candidate for the D.M.L. every six or eight years, now there is an average of two per year. These new conditions, which are in themselves excellent, require a great responsibility on the part of the faculty which should not be lost sight of.

The loyal collaboration of all my colleagues and the cooperation of the administration have made my task here this summer a great pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,

Joaquín Casalduero

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Acting Director